

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-12 and 14-20 are pending in this application. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 are amended. Claims 1-7 are cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the priority documents have been acknowledged and received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office; that the references filed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 22, 2004 have been considered; and that the drawings have been accepted.

RESULTS OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Initially, Applicant thanks Examiner Langdon and Supervisory Patent Examiner Matecki for the personal interview granted Applicant's representative on November 3, 2006. During the interview, the cited references of Balke (U.S. Patent No. 1,437,954), Orange (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,819) and Zuk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,590, herein Zuk) were discussed with respect to the claims and an example model of a bobbin was presented. An agreement was reached that the amendments to independent claims 8 and 14 shown in the preceding section of this Amendment overcome all of the rejections in the Office Action mailed August 28, 2006. Further, the Examiners requested that apparatus claims 1-7 be cancelled in favor of apparatus claims 14-20. Accordingly, the claim amendments included in this response are consistent the agreements reached during the personal interview.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 8-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Balke in view of Orange and Zuk. Claims 1-6 are cancelled rendering the rejection to claims 1-6 moot. Further, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to claims 8-12 and 14-19 for the reasons identified during the interview.

Amended independent claims 8 and 14 are shown below for the Examiner's convenience.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a bobbin of plastic comprising:

injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel, **the one piece U-shaped channel having** a plurality of cylinder elements, two circumferential end flanges and **inner grooves between adjacent cylinder elements**, each of the plurality of cylinder elements has a curved, radially inner surface and each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, radial flange elements;

bending the U-shaped channel until sides of the inner grooves abut each other; and

connecting ends of the U-shaped channel with each other in a position so the curved, radially inner surface of the plurality of cylinder elements form an inner circumference of a cylinder.

14. (Currently Amended) A bobbin of plastic comprising:

a one-piece injection moulded U-shaped channel,

wherein the U-shaped channel includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a curved radially inner surface at the time the U-shaped channel is injection moulded and prior to the U-shaped channel being bent to form a cylinder, so that when the U-shaped channel is bent to form the cylinder, the curved radially inner surface of each cylinder element **is connected to at least one adjacent cylinder element by plastic thinner than the at least one adjacent cylinder element** and abuts against two adjacent cylinder elements to form an inner circumference of the cylinder.

As agreed during the interview, Balke, Orange and Zuk all fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least the above-emphasized features of amended independent claims 8 and 14.

In light of the above and reasons presented during the personal interview, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-6 and 8-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Balke as modified by Orange and Zuk, and in further view of Koskelainen (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,974). Claim 7 is cancelled, and claim 20 depends from amended independent claim 14. Koskelainen also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above-emphasized features of amended independent 14, and thus Applicant respectfully submit that dependent claim 20 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 14.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of the pending claims in the present application is earnestly solicited.

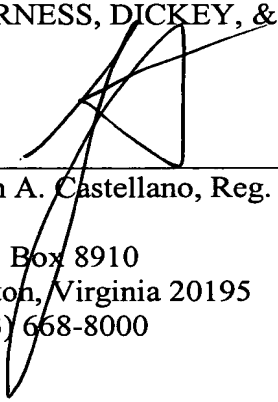
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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